

Remarks

Claims 9, 11, 12, 31 and 32 are pending in the application, with claims 31 and 32 being the independent claim. Claims 1-8, 10 and 13-30 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 31 and 32 have been added.

Based on the present Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

The Abstract has been amended to overcome the objection to the Specification.

Concerning the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, claim 32 (claim 10 rewritten in independent form) has been drafted so as not to include "the other side."

Another copy of the PTO-1449 form filed with the Information Disclosure Statement dated October 15, 2001 is attached.

The indication that claims 8-12 contains allowable subject matter is gratefully noted.

Claims 1-7 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent from as new claim 31. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from new claim 31. Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 32. Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to depend from new claim 32. As such, the rejection is moot and all claims are in condition for allowance.

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 09 976,291
Amendment dated August 21, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 21, 2003

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

A Notice of Allowance with claims 9, 11, 12, 31 and 32 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 08/21/03



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